

growth of Federal spending by an overwhelming 30 to 1 vote.

However, the truth contained in the Commission's report—that rapidly rising health care costs and the "graying of America" are what are driving Federal deficits—is not reflected in the budget.

Medicare and Medicaid continue to rise at rates above the rate of economic growth or Federal revenues. Health care reform continues to be essential in order to make any lasting progress on health care cost growth. Yet the budget does not face the need for reform in health care.

Social Security needs reform to ensure it will be there for future generations as it has for current and past beneficiaries. This does not mean cutting benefits for any current beneficiary by even a nickel, but it does mean that we need to face the reform issues honestly, and that we owe it to the American people, and particularly to younger Americans who worry that Social Security will not be there for them, to face them now. Yet, this budget does not do so.

Instead, the budget seems to concentrate on the part of the budget—discretionary domestic spending—that CBO says has not grown as a percentage of the economy since 1960, rather than taking on the real area of growth—mandatory spending. And it proposes tax cuts, when the American people know that deficit reduction is the higher priority.

The President does not support the balanced budget constitutional amendment, but the underlying budget trends do not either know or care who is for the balanced budget amendment or against it. The trends simply go on until we develop the political will to act to change them.

We all have an obligation to the American public to tell the truth about the budget, and about the future we face if we do not act. The American people know that something is wrong with the budget; the budget document should be a clear guide to what that something is.

Mr. President, I am confident that the American people will make the right decisions regarding the budget if they have the right information. This budget does not do enough to see that they do. Not facing our budget problems condemns us to a future where we don't have the money to solve either old problems or new ones. It costs us economic growth, savings, and works to undermine the standard of living of most Americans.

Dealing with our budget deficits is not an arcane accounting issue, it is perhaps the most important issue facing America today, and the most important determinant of the kind of future we will see. Balancing the budget is a people issue—an issue for our children and their children. It is disappointing that the budget does not do more to communicate those fundamental truths to the American people. I expected more.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, not to extend beyond 7 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not more than 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RONALD REAGAN'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 14 years ago, America was flat on her back. Our economy was a disaster, with inflation, interest rates, and unemployment all in or near double digits.

Abroad, respect for American leadership was at an all-time low, as our resolve was questioned by allies and adversaries alike.

Many in this town surveyed the situation, wrung their hands, shook their heads, and pronounced that America was in decline, and that our best days were far behind us.

But Ronald Reagan knew better.

Ronald Reagan knew that power belonged to the people, not with the Federal Government.

Ronald Reagan knew that the best solutions to our problems came not from bureaucracies on the Potomac, but from men and women on the Mississippi, the Colorado, and the Columbia.

Ronald Reagan knew that economic recovery could be achieved not through rules and regulations, but by allowing the magic of the marketplace to work its wonders.

Ronald Reagan knew that America was right far more often than she was wrong.

Ronald Reagan knew that military strength was not the means to war, but the key to peace.

And Ronald Reagan knew that the price of American leadership was a price worth paying.

It was this vision that Ronald Reagan brought to this town in January 1981. And it was this vision that revitalized America, and brought hope and freedom to millions across the world.

And it is that vision that America endorsed last November when they gave Republicans control of Congress.

Today is Ronald Reagan's 84th birthday. And along with those of countless Americans, my thoughts and prayers are with President and Mrs. Reagan today and will remain with them in days to come.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

VERY BEST TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to echo the distinguished majority leader's sentiments with regard to President Reagan and the dramatic impact he made on this town. Both the

majority leader and President Reagan worked very closely together, hand in hand, and did a terrific job for this country.

I really wish the President and Mrs. Reagan my very best. We all love them, appreciate them, and wish them well.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, with the consent of the minority leader, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 8, the majority leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion to table the Daschlel motion to commit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object. I just want to make sure, is this agreed to by the minority leader?

Mr. HATCH. This is agreed to by the Democratic leader, as I understand it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, further, for the information of my colleagues, in light of the consent just granted, there will be no votes during Tuesday's session of the Senate this week. However, this side of the aisle expects extensive debate on the Daschle motion and the pending Dole amendments thereto throughout Tuesday's session.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed immediately to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 2 through 7 and all the nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that any statements appear in the RECORD as if read; that upon confirmation, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed, en bloc, are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer to be placed in the grade indicated under the provisions of title 10, United States Code, section 1370:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Ira C. Owens, 000-00-0000, U.S. Army.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Menoher, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Army.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general